



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Carl HOFFMASTER *et al.* Art Unit : 3672
Serial No.: 09/924,961 Examiner : Hoang C. Dang
Filed : August 8, 2001 Confirmation No.: 1995
Title : ADVANCED EXPANDABLE REAMING TOOL

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

In response to the final Office Action mailed on May 4, 2004, the Applicant submits the following remarks and respectfully requests reconsideration.

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 132-150 are pending in this application. Claim 132 is independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 132.

Rejections Under §102

Claims 132-135, 139, 140, and 150 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,853,054 issued to McGarian ("McGarian"). Specifically, the Examiner stated that the cutting elements on one blade (shown in

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Applicant(s): Carl HOFFMASTER et al.

Docket No.

05516/089001

Application No.

09/924,961

Filing Date

08/08/2001

Examiner

H. C. Dang

Customer No.

22511

Group Art Unit

3672

Invention: **ADVANCED EXPANDABLE REAMING TOOL**

I hereby certify that the following correspondence:

Reply Under 37 CFR 1.116*(Identify type of correspondence)*

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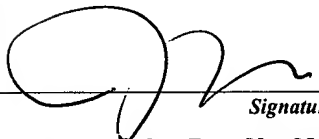
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Ifw AR 3672

AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL LETTER (Large Entity)				Docket No. 05516/089001	
Applicant(s): Carl HOFFMASTER et al.					
Application No. 09/924,961	Filing Date 08/08/2001	Examiner H. C. Dang	Customer No. 22511	Group Art Unit 3672	Confirmation No. 1995
Invention: ADVANCED EXPANDABLE REAMING TOOL					
<u>COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:</u>					
Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application.					
The fee has been calculated and is transmitted as shown below.					
CLAIMS AS AMENDED					
	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	HIGHEST # PREV. PAID FOR	NUMBER EXTRA CLAIMS PRESENT	RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
TOTAL CLAIMS	19 -	20 =	0 x	\$18.00	\$0.00
INDEP. CLAIMS	1 -	3 =	0 x	\$86.00	\$0.00
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/>					\$0.00
TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT					\$0.00
<div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No additional fee is required for amendment.</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Please charge Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of _____</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of _____ to cover the filing fee is enclosed.</div> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Director is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0591<div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16.</div><div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17.</div></div>					
<div> Signature</div> <div>Jonathan P. Osha, Reg. No. 33,986 OSHA & MAY L.L.P. 1221 McKinney Street, Suite 2800 Houston, Texas 77010 Telephone: 713/228-8600 Facsimile: 713/228-8778</div>			Dated: 7/6/04		
cc:			<div>I certify that this document and fee is being deposited on _____ with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.</div> <div>Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence</div> <div>Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence</div>		